

# A SECOND RECORD FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY OF THE PAINTED HONEYEATER (*GRANTIELLA PICTA*)

by Johnny A. Estbergs

On 25th July 1978 a single Painted Honeyeater was observed and photographed at the Little River crossing on the Carpentaria Highway, approximately 10 km west of the southern road junction to the Barkly Highway, 135 37' East 16 44' South.

The bird was observed moving from tree to tree feeding on mistletoe. Storr (1977) states that the only record of Painted Honeyeaters in the Northern Territory is that of H.G. Barnard who collected two specimens in the McArthur River area in 1913 (White 1913, Barnard 1914). It is not generally realized that this species is a north/south migrant breeding in the southern part of its range in the height of summer and moving to north central Queensland during the winter months (J.L. McKean Pers. comm).

This sighting and the collection of the two specimens of Barnard's (12.8.1913 one

female, 18.8.1913 one male) fit in with this pattern.

The scarcity of records of this species here is probably due to the lack of competent resident observers in this region.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author thanks the Australian Photographic Index of the Australian Museum, Sydney, for financial assistance in enabling him to visit the region.

## REFERENCES

- BARNARD, H.G. 1914. 'Northern Territory Birds', Emu 14:39-57.
- STORR, G.M. 1977. 'Birds of the Northern Territory'. Spec. Pubs. West Aust. Mus. 7:1-130.
- WHITE, H.L. 1914. 'New Sub-species of Honeyeater', Emu 13:187.

Painted Honeyeater *Grantiella picta*.

